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REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-14 have been amended to place them in better form. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, at pages 3-5, claims 1-114 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020023132 by Tomabene, et al. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 8-10

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a shared information processing system including a client and a server. According to independent claim 1, the client includes highlighted file registration means, a highlighted file management means, and highlighted file status display means. More specifically, the client includes "highlighted file registration means for accepting from a user a request for registration of a highlighted file and performing registration of only a file name on a highlighted file list, and for notifying a server of registration information for said highlighted file." Further, independent claim 1 recites that the server includes "highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names and respective storage locations registered to said client using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client." Additionally, amended independent claim 1 recites the "the highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored." Thus, according to independent claim 1, only a highlighted file name, which indicates the storage location of the file, is managed by the server.

Tomabene, in contrast to the present invention, teaches that the file itself is registered in the server. In a non-limiting example, the present invention simplifies the process of shared file registration. The amount of data kept by the server of the present invention is relatively small

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because the files themselves are not registered in the server. Because of this small amount of data, the need for special server equipment is eliminated.

As Tornabene fails to teach or suggest at least "highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names and respective storage locations registered to said client using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client," and that "the highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored," as recited in amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is in condition for allowance.

As claims 8-10 recite similar features as amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 patentably distinguish over the prior art for reasons similar to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4

As claims 2-4 depend directly from amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 patentably distinguish over the prior art for at least the same reasons as amended independent claim 1 and, therefore, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 5

Independent claim 5 has been amended to recite that the server includes "highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names registered to said each client using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client and for managing correspondence between a virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel") and a highlighted file related to that channel" and that "the highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored." As amended independent claim 5 recites features similar to amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the prior art for reasons similar to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

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Claim 6

As claim 6 depends directly from amended independent claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art for at least the same reasons as amended independent claim 5 and, therefore, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 7

Independent claim 7 has been amended to recite that the client includes "highlighted file name extraction means for extracting file names that can be registered as highlighted files from a chat character string inputted by a user within a channel" and "highlighted file registration determination means for determining whether or not a file corresponding to an extracted file name is to be registered as a highlighted file." Amended independent claim 7 also recites "highlighted file registration means for registering a highlighted file as related to a corresponding virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel") when the highlighted file registration determination means determines that a highlighted file is to be registered, and notifying a server of registration information for said highlighted file." Thus, according to amended independent claim 7, the present invention allows for a file name and URL, which are embedded in chat text, to automatically be obtained and registered as a share file. Applicants respectfully submit that Tomabene fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of amended Independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-14

As claims 11-14 recite similar features as claims 1, 5, and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-14 patentably distinguish over the prior art for reasons similar to claims 1, 5, and 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-14 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further

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outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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STAAS & HALSEY

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Date: 7/25/05